

# **Journey To College**

The turtle is seen as strength and solidarity,  
Is old and wise and well respected, and  
Teaches us patience and never to give up.

# College Terms

**Admission Requirements:** Specific information required to be accepted at a college or university.

**Agricultural, Technical and specialized Colleges:** Specializes schools emphasizing specific careers.

**American College Testing Program (ACT):** A widely used college entrance examination.

**Associate Degree:** A degree awarded by colleges and universities upon program completion.

**Bachelor's Degree:** A degree awarded by colleges and universities upon program completion.

**Catalog:** A catalog issued by an institution with information related to admissions, financial aid, and course curriculum.

**College:** An institution of learning beyond high school, which offers curriculum leading to degrees.

**College Fair:** An organized event with representatives from various educational institutions.

**Community or Junior Colleges:** Educational institutions of higher learning offering certificate and associate degrees.

**Competitive Admissions:** Admission policies with minimum qualifications that assure competitive applicants.

**Curriculum Guide (syllabus):** A detailed course plane with course goals, objectives, assignments, and deadlines.

**Doctorate Degree:** A degree beyond a master's with an emphasis on new knowledge and theoretical perspectives.

**Early action:** Admission allowing high school seniors early application to select colleges or universities.

**Free wavier request:** A written request not to pay admission, entrance examination, or registration fees.

**Liberal Arts Colleges:** Colleges offering a broad base of courses in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences.

**Master's Degree:** A graduate degree earned after earning an undergraduate or bachelor's degree.

**Orientation program:** An introductory program designed to help students become familiar with a new educational setting.

**Professional Degree:** Highly specialized degrees such as law and medical degrees.

**Scholastic Aptitude Testing Program (SAT):** A standardized aptitude test for college admission.

**Transcript:** A record of a student's academic courses and grades, which is maintained by the school registration.

**Universities:** An educational institution of higher learning offering degrees and research facilities.

# Importance of the essay

## How important is my essay in the admissions decision?

The essay is your chance to set yourself apart from other applicant. It gives the admissions officer reasons to back your candidacy. It is the way you can enhance your application by showcasing your writing skills. There is no more important skill in college than the ability to express your ideas clearly and in engaging manner.

## Who will read and evaluate my essay?

Typically an admissions officer will read your essay and write an evaluation. Some schools will receive your essay by circulating your file among members of an admissions committee comprising of several individuals, including admissions officials, faculty members, and possibly current students.

## How do schools evaluate my essay?

Some intuitions use a multiple-scoring system in which each essay receives separate scores for current, style, and mechanics. Other schools take a more holistic approach, relying on written comments by evaluators as well as dialogue among members of the admissions committee.

# The Gates Millennium Scholars

## What Is The Gates Millennium Scholarship?

The Gates Millennium Scholarship (GMS) Program, funded by a \$1 Billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was established in 1999 to provide outstanding African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education, in all discipline areas.

## Eligibility Requirements

*Applicants Must:*

- Be African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian Islander American, or Hispanic American;
- Be a citizen or legal permanent resident or national of the United States;
- Have attained a cumulative GPA of 3.30 on a 4.0 scale; or is a GED recipient;
- Be admitted to and enter an accredited college or university as full-time, degree-seeking freshmen;
- Demonstrate financial need(meet the federal Pell Grant criteria requirements);
- Demonstrate leadership abilities through participation in community service, extra curricular, or other activities.

### For more information

Contact the American Indian Graduate Center  
Toll Free 1-866-884-7007  
4520 Montgomery Blvd NE, Suite 1-B  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
[WWW.aigcs.org](http://WWW.aigcs.org)

# Top Ten Tips for Winning Scholarship Applications

## **Apply only if you are eligible.**

Read all the scholarship requirements  
And directions carefully.

## **Complete the application in full.**

If a question does not apply to you,  
Note that on the application. Do not  
Leave a question blank.

## **Follow directions.**

Provide everything that is required.

## **Neatness counts.**

Always type your application,  
Or if you must print, do so  
Neatly and legibly.

**Write an essay that makes strong  
Impression.** The key to writing a strong  
Essay is to be personal and specific.

## **Watch all deadlines.**

Impose your own deadline that is at  
Least two weeks prior to the official  
Deadline.

## **Make sure your application gets**

**Where it needs to go.** Put your  
name (and social security number,  
If applicable) on all pages of the  
Application.

**keep a backup file in case  
anything goes wrong.** Before  
Sending the application, make  
A copy of the entire packet.

## **Give it a final once-over.**

Proofread the entire application  
Carefully. Ask a friend, teacher, or  
parent to proofread it as well.

## **Ask for help if you need it.**

Call the funding organization to  
get information.

**\*It is also important to make  
Sure your letters of  
Recommendation are addressed  
to the organization whose  
scholarship you are applying  
For, and that they are current.**

# Tips for Native Parents

*Parents are the first teachers of their children and provide the Foundation on which the social, emotional, intellectual, and Spiritual well being of future generations rests.*

- Provide a loving, healthy, and supportive Environment for each child to grow and achieve Their fullest potential from prenatal to adulthood.
- Establish parenting circles in the community That provide an opportunity to share joys and Frustrations.
- Connect with parents and grandparents in the Community who can serve as role models for Providing a nurturing family and home Environment.
- Utilize the traditional disciplining roles of Uncles, aunts, and other authority figures In the community to help children learn What is the right and wrong in a constructive Way.
- Participate as a family and encourage children To become actively involved in cultural values of the Community.
- Set aside time each day or week for family Oriented activities including extended family Members whenever possible.
- Make arrangements to accompany your child Through part or all of a school day at least once Per semester or quarter to gain an understanding Of what they are doing in school.

- **Use traditional naming practices and help each Child understand the significance of the names They carry.**
- **Volunteer to participate in activities that help Make the schooling experiences of each child An extension of home and community life.**
- **Assist children in learning and using their Heritage language and understanding their Family history and what shapes their identity.**
- **Make use of locally appropriate rituals and Ceremonies to reinforce the critical events in Children's lives.**
- **Serve as a positive role model and member for Children by practicing and reinforcing Traditional values and appropriate behaviors.**
- **Participate in community-sponsored programs That enhances parenting skills.**



## **Eligibility requirements for Tribal Higher Ed Grants**

- Be an enrolled member of an American Indian tribe that is eligible for federal funding provided by the United States government through the bureau of Indian affairs.
- Be accepted for admission to an accredited institution of higher education.
- Demonstrate financial needs as determined by the FAFSA and financial aid office of the educational institution of attendance.

## **Where can a student find a Higher Ed Grant Application?**

An application may be obtained from the education office of the tribe with which you are affiliated or possess membership.

# Tips for Native youth

*Culturally healthy youth take an active interest in learning their heritage and assume responsibility for their role as contributing members of the family and community in which they live.*

- Learn all you can about your family, kinship Relations, and community history and cultural Heritage.
- Participate in traditional activities with Parents, elders, and other members of the Community, and learn the stories and lessons Associated with those activities.
- Become actively involved in local activities and Organizations that contribute to the quality Of life in your community.
- Show respect to the elders in your community By assisting them in any way you can.
- Get involved in local, regional, state, and national Issues and organizations that impact your community.
- Make healthy choices in your lifestyle that contribute To the wholeness and well being of yourself and Those around you.
- Always be a good role model, show, respect, And provide support to others.
- Participate in apprenticeships with cultural experts in the Community and acquire traditional conflict resolution skills.

- **Associate with friends who can provide healthy role Models that will make a positive contribution To your growth, development, and education Toward adulthood.**

# What's the difference?

	SAT	ACT
<b>Preferred by</b>	Private schools, schools on the east and west coasts; more colleges prefer the SAT	Public schools, schools in the middle of the country.
<b>Score Reporting</b>	Reports all scores to the colleges you pick, including the results of any early "practice" testing	Reports only the score from the test date you pick to colleges you pick. You can choose to give colleges only your best scores.
<b>Highest Math level</b>	Algebra/basic geometry: test booklet provides formulas	Trigonometry; test booklet has few formulas
<b>Skills most tested</b>	Vocabulary, reading, math	Grammar, reading, math
<b>Penalty for wrong Answers</b>	Yes	no
<b>Style</b>	Tricky, with misleading information	Mostly straightforward
<b>Offered</b>	Seven times a year	Six times a year
<b>When to register</b>	At least six weeks before test date	At least four weeks before test date
<b>For more information</b>	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>	<a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a>

# Federal student aid

## At a glance

Federal Student Aid Program	Type of Aid	Program Details
<b>Federal Pell grant</b>	Grant does not have to be repaid	Available almost exclusively to undergraduates; all eligible students will receive the federal pell grant amounts they qualify for
<b>Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)</b>	Grant; does not have to be repaid	For undergraduates with exceptional financial need; priority is given to federal pell grant recipients; funds depend on availability at school
<b>Federal work-study</b>	Money is earned while attending school; does not have to be repaid	For undergraduate and graduate students; program encourages community service work and work related to course work. Jobs can be on campus or off campus; students are paid at least minimum wage
<b>Federal Perkins Loan</b>	Loan; must be repaid	Loans at 5% interest for both undergraduate and graduate students; payment is owed to the school that made the loan
<b>Subsidized FFEL* or Direct** Stafford Loan</b>	Loan: must be repaid; must be at least a half-time student	Subsidized: U.S. Department of education pays interest while borrower is in school and during grace and deferment periods: must demonstrate financial need
<b>Unsubsidized FFEL* or Direct** Stafford Loan</b>	Loan: must be repaid; must be at least a half-time student	Unsubsidized: Borrower is responsible for interest during life of the loan; financial need not a requirement
<b>FFEL* or Direct** Plus Loan</b>	Loan: must be repaid	Available to parents of dependent undergraduate students enrolled at least half time

# Tribal & Community Colleges and Universities

Bay Mills  
Haskell  
Indian  
Nations

Fort Peck  
Institute of  
American  
Indian Arts

Signaw  
Chippewa

Blackfeet

Keweenaw  
Bay Ojibwa

Salish  
Kootenai

Cankdeska  
Cikana  
(Little hoop)

Lac courte  
Oreilles  
Ojibwa

Sinte Gleska  
University

College of  
Menominee  
Nation

Leech Lake

Sisseton  
Wahpeton

Little Big Horn

sitting bull

Crown Point  
Institute of  
Technology

Little Priest  
Tribal  
College

Southwestern  
Indian  
Polytechnic  
Institute

Din'e College

Chief Dull  
Knife

Nebraska  
Indian

Stone Child

Fond du Lac

Northwest  
Indian

Tohono  
O'odham

Fort Belknap

Oglala Lakota

Turtle  
Mountain

Fort Berthold

United Tribes  
White Earth

# Tips from Native Elders

*Respected Native Elders are the essential role models*

*Who can share their knowledge and expertise on traditional*

*Values needed to nurture the cultural well-being of today's youth.*

- Seek guidance and assistance from elders  
In your community.
- Listen and learn from the others and pass on  
You're Knowledge.
- Practice and reinforce traditional values  
And appropriate behaviors in everyday life.
- Participate in cultural activities.
- Serve as a role model and mentor to others.
- Participate in storytelling opportunities as  
A way of learning cultural values and traditions.
  - Understand the world around you and how  
It has changed including the  
Interconnectedness of human, natural and  
Spiritual realms.

## **Myths about Financial Aid**

"I'm not going to bother  
Filling out the  
Free application for Federal  
Student aid because..."

"...my parents make too  
Much money, so I won't  
Qualify for aid."

**Reality:** There is no income cut-  
Off to qualify for federal student  
Aid. Many factors besides  
Income-from the size of your  
Family to the age of your older  
Parent-are taken into account.  
Completion of the *free Application  
For Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA)  
May also be used to determine state  
And institutional aid.

"...only students with good  
Grades get financial aid."

**Reality:** while a high grade point average  
Is important for academic scholarships,  
Most of the federal student aid programs  
Do not take a student's grades into consideration.  
Provided a student maintains satisfactory  
Academic progress, federal aid helps with  
Average academic records.

**"...you have to be a minority  
to get financial aid."**

**Reality:** Funds from federal  
student aid programs are  
Awarded on the basis of race.  
The FAFSA does not collect  
Ethnicity information.

"...the form is too hard to fill  
out."

**Reality:** The FAFSA is easier  
than ever, especially if you  
fill it out online at  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) there are  
detailed instructions for every  
question if you need help, you  
can call the Federal Student  
Aid information Center at:  
1-800-4-fed-aid (1-800-433-  
3243) and speak to a customer  
Service representative. You can  
Also get FREE help from a high  
school counselor or a financial  
aid office at the school you plan  
to attend.

U.S. Department of Education